

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 16, 29, 31, and 32. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3-16, and 18-32 will be pending, with claims 23-28 having been previously withdrawn. Accordingly, with the additional new claims, the application presents twenty-four (24) total claims, of which four are in independent form (claims 1, 15, 31, and 32). For any fees which are deemed necessary following submittal of this Amendment, the undersigned hereby authorizes such fees to be charged to our deposit account, Deposit Account No. 061910.

In the Office Action, Examiner rejects claims 1, 3-14, and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. As such, Examiner states that the claims contain subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

To this end, Examiner states that Applicant claims the upper rear portion of the frame located “posterior” to the fender, however, Examiner states that this is inconsistent with Applicant’s overall disclosure if the term “posterior” is taken to mean “behind or to the rear of”. Examiner explains that Applicant’s frame rail is not behind or to the rear of the fender, but rather, the fender surrounds the frame rail so that the rails are interior of the fender, not posterior to it. Examiner states that Applicant’s original disclosure states on page 7, lines 16-17, that the “rear frame rails 44 are located posterior to the fender 34”, and that this statement describes the structure of Figure 3, which clearly shows the fender attached exterior of the frame rails, including at the rear end of the fender. Examiner further notes on page 6, lines 21-22, Applicant’s original disclosure recites that “rear fender 34 is mounted initially over the rear frame rails 44”. Therefore, Examiner concludes the fender encloses the rails and no part of the

rails extends to the rear of, or “posterior to”, the fender. Examiner also notes that only a portion of the fender extends rearwardly of the one or more components, and that generally, the component straddles the fender somewhat and is mounted above it.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 16, 29, 31, and 32 to clear up any confusion created in using the term “posterior”. While Applicants agree that “posterior” may be defined as the Examiner has explained in the Office Action, in the context of the original disclosure of the application, Applicants have used the term “posterior” to mean “located behind a part”, wherein “located behind” would translate to “interior to”. In turn, when the original disclosure states on page 7, lines 16-17, that the “rear frame rails 44 are located posterior to the fender 34”, what is meant by Applicants is that the rear frame rails 44 are interior to the fender 34. In turn, this meaning of “posterior” meshes with Examiner’s understanding and explanation concerning the clause in Applicant’s original disclosure on page 6, lines 21-22 (“rear fender 34 is mounted initially over the rear frame rails 44”) and with what is represented in Figure 3 (which Examiner notes “clearly shows the fender attached exterior of the frame rails, including at the rear end of the fender”).

As mentioned above, Applicants have amended claims 1, 16, 29, 31, and 32 to clear up the confusion associated with using the term “posterior”. With respect to claims 1, 31, and 32, Applicants have amended the language “the upper rear portion of the frame located posterior to the fender and the one or more components” to read “at least part of the upper rear portion of the frame located interior to the fender and the one or more components”. With respect to claim 16, Applicants have amended the language “the upper rear portion of the frame is located posterior to the rear fender” to read “at least part of the upper rear portion of the frame is located interior to the rear fender”. With respect to claim 29, Applicants have amended the language “the fender is located posterior to the one or more components” to read “at least part of the fender is located interior to the one or more components”. Based on these amendments made with respect to

claims 1, 16, 29, 31, and 32, Applicants believe Examiner's rejection thereto have been overcome. With respect to claims 3-14 and 29-30, all depend from claim 1, either directly or through other claims. As such, with amendments made to claim 1 as shown and described above, Applicants believe Examiner's rejection thereto have also been overcome. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that no new matter will be introduced by entry of these amendments and that the amendments are fully supported by the specification and application as a whole. Applicants have amended the claims solely to advance prosecution of this application and to obtain the allowance of claims at the earliest possible date. No admission should be inferred by these amendments. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the originally filed claims in a continuation application.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that the present rejections should be withdrawn and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be materially advanced by a telephonic interview, the undersigned would welcome a call at the number listed below.

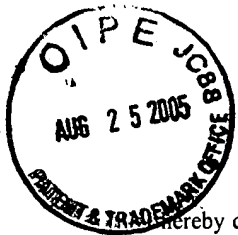
Respectfully submitted,



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